

# atomic number *(a-tom-ic-num-ber)*

## Definition

n. The number of protons in the nucleus of an atom, which determines the chemical properties of an element and its place in the periodic table.

## Example Sentence

The **atomic number** of carbon is 6, indicating it has six protons in its nucleus.

## More Example Sentences

Elements in the periodic table are arranged in order of increasing **atomic number**.

## Synonyms

proton number; Z; element number

## Antonyms

mass number; neutron number; atomic mass

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